

RECORD VERSION

WRITTEN STATEMENT BY

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ELIMINATION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS

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ON EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS,
PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

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ON "CARING FOR SPECIAL NEEDS DURING
DISASTERS: WHAT'S BEING DONE FOR VULNERABLE POPULATIONS?"

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COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

Chairman Richardson, Representative Rogers, distinguished Members of the Committee

I am grateful to have the opportunity to address this subcommittee to discuss the important work the United States Army and FEMA has completed and continues to do on the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program in support of the Chemical Demilitarization Program. I respectfully request that my written statement be entered into the record in its entirety.

I am Carmen J. Spencer, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army, for the Elimination of Chemical Weapons. In this capacity, I provide management oversight of the United States Army's Chemical Demilitarization Program. By way of background, as a former Army officer, I had the privilege of commanding two Army installations directly involved in destroying the U.S. stockpile of chemical munitions. This experience has given me firsthand knowledge of working with municipalities and local citizens concerned with emergency preparedness in the unlikely event of a chemical accident or incident.

The Chemical Demilitarization Program was established in 1986 by Public Law 99-145, and exists today, to remove the threat posed by continued storage of obsolete chemical weapons, to meet international treaty requirements, and to inspire a world-wide commitment to the elimination of an entire class of weapons of mass destruction. The United States Army Chemical Demilitarization Program has been a congressionally funded and mandated program for more than twenty years. Since 1986 the Army has safely and effectively destroyed chemical agents and munitions at seven stockpile sites nationwide. As of today, the Army has successfully completed the destruction missions at three sites (Johnston Atoll, Newport, IN, and Aberdeen, MD) and is currently operating four incineration sites (Umatilla, OR, Tooele, UT, Pine Bluff, AR and Anniston, AL). The Army's effectiveness in destroying these agents and munitions, while maintaining the highest standards of safety to the workers, the public and the

environment has led to over \$2 billion in lifecycle cost savings and has placed the program 62 months ahead of schedule. As of 9 June, 2010, the Army has currently destroyed 74% of the U.S. Stockpile.

The United States Army Chemical Demilitarization Program is made up of three program areas, the Chemical Stockpile Elimination Project, the Non-Stockpile Chemical Materiel Project and the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program or CSEPP. CSEPP provides technical and financial support to communities located near the stockpiles to enhance effective responses to potential releases of chemical agent. The program is managed cooperatively by the Army and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The Army and FEMA have been successfully managing and executing this important mission since August 1988. As a part of Public Law 99-145, the Congress directed the Department of Defense to dispose of its lethal unitary chemical agents and munitions while providing “maximum protection for the environment, the general public and the personnel involved.” In 1987, the United States Army released a Draft Emergency Response Concept Plan, which presented a basis for the development of local emergency response programs and examined various methods of emergency planning. Then in 1999, the National Defense Authorization Act provided further statutory delineation between the roles that the Army and FEMA each play with CSEPP. The law assigned the Army responsibility for all on-post CSEPP activities and FEMA the responsibility for all off-post CSEPP activities. Then in 2008, the Congress modified the termination requirements for CSEPP funding in Public Law 110-181. This statutory change requires that CSEPP communities only receive assistance until either the date of the completion of all grants and cooperative agreements which are managed by FEMA, or the date that is 180 days after the completion of the destruction of chemical agent and munitions at each individual installation or facility.

The primary mission of CSEPP is to protect the health and safety of the public by enhancing and augmenting existing emergency preparedness capabilities of the Army

installations and nearby civilian communities. The Army and FEMA have jointly developed the program's policy and guidance using the Integrated Process Team concept to ensure representation and acceptance by all of the government stakeholders involved. This strong Army, FEMA, State, Tribal and local government partnership has ensured that continued full program benchmark compliance at all sites and has successfully allowed for the continued safe destruction of the nation's stockpile of chemical weapons. The United States Army has a continuing commitment to fund off-post requirements that are validated by FEMA to meet the maximum protection criteria mandated by Public Law.

I am very proud and have been continually impressed by the work that CSEPP has done, and continues to do. Through their involvement in this program, CSEPP communities are now better prepared to respond to all natural and man-made hazards.

In closing, thank you again for this opportunity to come before you. I look forward to answering any questions you may have.